Waiving of Bank loans of 1984 riot victims

4295. SHRI NIRMALENDU BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per announcement made in New Delhi in July, 1996 in respect of waiving of Bank loans upto Rs. 50,000/- granted to November 1984 riot victims has been implemented;

(b) if so, how many riot victims have benefited therefrom;

(c) if not, the latest position for writing off Bank loans of 1984 riot victims upto Rs. 50,000/- and interest thereon; and

(d) when these Bank loans would be written off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The reliefs/concessions already extended by the Government to the November, 1994 riot affected borrowers *inter-alia*, include:

(i) Reduction of interest to 6 percent per annum, in deserving cases, on loans extended to November, 1984 riot affected borrowers from Ist November, 1984 or from the date of grant of laon, if granted subsequently upto 31st December, 1989. A sum of Rs. 23.47 crores has already been released for settling the individual claims;

(ii) Write off of loans where the principal of loan was upto Rs. 25,000/- at the time of grant of loan, alongwith interest outstanding. Claims aggregating to Rs. 15.58 crores in 9,487 accounts have already been settled; and

(iii) Scaling down of interest to 1 percent per annum (simple), in deserving cases on loans from Ist November, 1984 or from the date of grant of loan, if granted subsequenlty upto 31st March, 1992. A sum of Rs. 31.37 crores has already been released for settling the individual claims.

Following the announcement of further reliefs to the November, 1984 riot affected borrowers for waiving of bank loans upto Rs. 50,000/-, the matter has been examined and a final decision for implementation of a scheme in this regard is expected to be taken shortly.

Investigation into contributions received by Political parties

4296. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Diorectorate has undertaken any scrutiny/ investigation of/into contributoins received by political parties during the last two years; and

(b) whether any irregularities/ discrepancies have been noticed in the matter; if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not aries.

Income tax raid on MESCO Group

4297. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that an income-tax raid was conducted on different premises of MESCO group; and

(b) what lead the IT Officials to conduct the raid and the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir, search and seizure action was conducted on different premises of MESCO group on 26.2.1997.

(b) The search was conducted on the basis of information that the group was